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Quadrennial reports, 1994-1997/1995-1998, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Aims and purposes

The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) is a humanitarian, non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian, and non-governmental organization. It was formally founded on 1 August 1984. It has as its vision global peace and development. AMDA's mission is to promote the health and well-being of underprivileged and marginalized people in Asia and other countries. These principles are embodied in its slogan "Better quality of life for a better future". AMDA continues to strengthen its relationships with different world agencies concerned with humanitarian issues, social welfare, distress relief, rehabilitation, development and all other activities related to global peace and promotion of the health and well-being of the underprivileged people of the world. AMDA has strengthened its partnerships with the United Nations and its different entities, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and World Health Organization (WHO). AMDA seeks to interlink countries throughout the world with its network of humanitarian and development activities. In that quest, it is making efforts to open new chapters, project offices and partnerships with non-governmental organizations, so that its "Global network of partnerships for peace via projects" reaches people in every corner of the world, irrespective of caste, creed, race or religion.

Awards received, 1995-1998

The following awards were received: 28th Okayama Prefecture Miki Memorial Award, August 1995; 2nd United Nations Boutros Ghali Award, September 1995; 25th Mainichi Social Welfare Award, October 1995; 2nd Yomiuri International Cooperational Award, October 1995; 7th Mainichi International Cultural Exchange Award, November 1995; 54th Sanyo Newspaper Award, January 1996.

Increase in geographical membership

AMDA views itself as an active network which builds respect and trust via partnership in humanitarian activities. At present, AMDA has 25 chapters in Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America and project offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Djibouti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. The geographical membership has increased from 583 individuals in 1995 to 2,077 in 1998.

Sources of funding

The organization's financial resources are derived from membership dues, contributions, donations, subsidies, interests on its capital and payment for services rendered in its field of activity. The organization accepts financial support from all sources, provided that no conditions are attached or implied that might detract from its independent nature or the conscientious fulfilment of its assigned tasks. It receives funds from a wide range of sources such as intergovernmental organizations, Governments and foundations. The organization's budget has been increased from a total of 303,836,289 Japanese yen in 1995 to ¥429,246,481 in 1998.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

AMDA has actively participated in various conferences, seminars, workshops and meetings organized by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

It joined the UNHCR/NGO Partnership in Action conferences in Katmandu (Nepal) and Tokyo (Japan), 1-3 November 1993 and 14 February 1994 and 1998. It sponsored the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) workshop in Okayama, Japan, in February 1996. AMDA sent representatives to United Nations offices in Austria (1996), New York, during the General Assembly (1997), and Geneva (1998).

AMDA has implemented short- and long-term humanitarian projects in cooperation with various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, emergency preparedness and response, education, shelter, microenterprise and the empowerment of women, for developing countries, disaster-stricken communities, refugees and displaced people.

Other relevant activities

AMDA organized and managed several international conferences to promote networking among the members of national and international non-governmental organizations, public/private partnerships, and peace.

Publications

To ensure that members and supporters of AMDA are continuously made aware of the affairs of the organization, AMDA publishes the following periodicals: *AMDA Journal* (monthly, in Japanese, distributed worldwide free of charge to members and collaborating organizations) and *AMDA International Newsletter* (quarterly, in English, 1,000 copies distributed worldwide free of charge to members and collaborating organizations).

From 1995 to 1998, it also published: *Rwanda Kara no Shogen* (Report of Rwanda Refugee Relief Group). This book reviews AMDA's humanitarian activities in Rwanda and Zaire (April 1995); *Tobidase!*, on AMDA's emergent medical relief activity in the great Hanshin (Kobe) earthquake, followed by reports of international projects (July 1995), and *AMDA no Teigen* (Proposals from AMDA), by Dr. Shigeru Suganami, president of AMDA. Based on his experiences with emergency relief activities in foreign countries and in Kobe, Dr. Suganami outlines the fundamental concepts behind volunteer activity and his conception of non-governmental organization activity in the future (November 1996).

2. Center for International Health and Cooperation

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Background

The Center for International Health and Cooperation (CIHC) was founded in February 1992 to promote healing and peace in countries shattered by war, regional conflicts and ethnic violence. The Center is led by a President/Director, Kevin M. Cahill, M.D., and a Board of Directors and advisers, including the Hon. Cyrus Vance, the Hon. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Lord David Owen, John Cardinal O'Connor, Lord Paul Hamlyn, Mr. Daniel Boyer, Ambassadors Abdulrahim Abby Farah and Jan Eliasson, and Professor Eoin O'Brien. The founders were determined to use their diplomatic and medical skills, separately and in

tandem, to help alleviate various tragic situations throughout the world. These and many other distinguished men and women volunteer their services to the Center, bringing exceptional experience, knowledge, statesmanship and insights to bear on the complex problems and opportunities associated with humanitarian efforts in international conflicts.

During the late 1960s, Dr. Cahill and Ambassador Farah joined with other concerned diplomatic and political leaders in a symposium, later published as a book, entitled *The Untapped Resource: Medicine and Diplomacy*. That volume reflected the conviction that health and other basic humanitarian endeavours often provide the only common ground for initiating dialogue and cooperation among warring parties. This philosophy underlies all the activities and efforts of the Center, which include providing direct health care in crises, organizing medical relief and humanitarian assistance through local channels, alone or in cooperation with other international agencies, training the next generation of humanitarian assistance workers for the crises of the next millennium. In each programme, the Center emphasizes the health-care professional's unique potential to contribute to the resolution of seemingly intractable conflict situations.

The Center receives funding from private individuals and major grants from foundations and corporations.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

The Center employs its resources and unique personal contacts to stimulate interest in serious humanitarian issues. For example, it focused international attention on the dangers of anti-personnel landmines through a major symposium and subsequent book, *Clearing the Fields: Solutions to the Land Mine Crisis*, and by the acclaimed photographic exhibit and book *Silent Witnesses*. Former United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali credited the Center with providing a critical initiative for the United Nations programme leading to a ban on anti-personnel landmines. The *Silent Witnesses* exhibit allowed renowned photographic artists to participate in a United Nations-coordinated show in Vienna, Oslo, Stockholm and Canada and in the main lobby of the United Nations for six months. The Center organized a major symposium in 1994 at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on the complex questions surrounding the use of anti-personnel landmines. *Clearing the Fields: Solutions to the Land Mine Crisis* convened experts from medicine, law, philosophy, economics, the military, science and diplomacy to discuss remedies now available to this global, expanding problem. The programme, edited and published by Basic Books (with a second edition forthcoming from Routledge) became a major document in the General Assembly debate on this topic and helped in the international movement to ban these weapons. This and several other publications of the Center have included contributions by both Secretaries-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Kofi Annan.

Other activities

As one of its primary projects, the CIHC working, initially, in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the University of Liverpool, developed a practical, academic programme offering an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance. The inaugural course was held in Dublin, Ireland, in 1997. CIHC then joined with Hunter College of the City University of New York, and, in partnership with the RCSI, conducted intensive residential courses towards the Diploma in New York and Geneva. The International Diploma provides a basic minimum standard for those who participate in humanitarian crises, particularly during conflicts and disasters. It has long been known that various agencies and organizations have markedly different training programmes, with many aid

workers ill-prepared to face the serious challenges that are inevitable in times of war or following natural calamities. The International Diploma is a multidisciplinary programme created to simulate a humanitarian crisis, with 12-hour days, six days per week for a full month. The initial course was opened by a strong endorsement from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and attracted internationally renowned and experienced lecturers from all parts of the world. The course continues to be offered twice annually, with participation from United Nations bodies, including the International Federation of the Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, the United Nations Secretariat, MSF, all major non-governmental organizations such as Concern and Save the Children.

At a time when the world community is desperately searching for alternatives to costly military "solutions", CIHC maintains that preventive diplomacy offers the last best hope to those suffering in the maelstrom of chaos and impending war, be it civil or international. For this reason, in 1996 the Center convened a major United Nations symposium, "Preventive diplomacy". The principal international structures and mechanisms that exist for conflict resolution are those provided by the Charter of the United Nations and the attendant United Nations resolutions and legal instruments. However, these were established 50 years ago to suit global conditions vastly different from those of the modern era.

The "Preventive diplomacy" programme assessed those structures and mechanisms and discussed procedures that might complement them. Central to the discussion was the proposal that the methodology of public health, and even the semantics of medicine, could provide valuable tools for conflict prevention and resolution efforts.

The symposium drew on the knowledge of an important new body of public service — the humanitarian agencies — many of which did not exist when the United Nations was created and upon which considerable responsibility is now placed in times of conflict. "Preventive diplomacy" has been favourably reviewed in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and leading health and foreign policy journals, and is now being updated and revised for republication in early 2000 by Routledge.

3. European Forum for Victim Services

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Introduction

The European Forum for Victim Services, established in 1989, aims for greater recognition and better treatment of crime victims in Europe. It promotes the development of effective services and works to ensure proper compensation for people affected by crime on a fair and equal basis. It also promotes victims' rights within the criminal justice process and with other agencies and extends knowledge about the best possible provision for crime victims through the exchange of experience and information between its members.

These objectives are achieved through a twice-yearly newsletter, an annual conference and the production of a range of publications. The Secretary also maintains a directory of victim services across Europe.

Membership and funding

Between 1995 and 1998, four further countries joined the Forum: the Czech Republic, Finland, Norway and Hungary, bringing the total membership to 18. There was considerable

development in Eastern Europe and, since 1997, an invitation has been extended to every Eastern European country to send a delegate to the Forum's annual conference. In 1998, the Hungarian representative, Lenke Feher, completed a three-year study on the extent of services for crime victims in Eastern Europe, and the Forum continues to promote dialogue and offer assistance in the hope of encouraging developments in that region. The main sources of funding continue to be the fees paid by members and the financial support provided by the Government and other agencies of the country hosting the Forum's annual conference. Between 1995-1998, such contributions were received from local and central governments in Flanders, Hungary, France and Austria. The Forum's executive committee was able to carry out its duties thanks to a general grant from the Skandia Insurance Company in Sweden. In 1998, the European Commission granted £8,500 to the Forum for work in developing standards of good practice. This covered the cost of producing the Forum's most recent publication, *Statement of victims' Rights to Standards of Service*.

Liaison with the United Nations

Since the adoption of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (1985), Forum members from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France and Portugal have assisted in drafting the guide for policy makers on the implementation of the Declaration and on the *Handbook on Justice for Victims*. Forum representatives attended meetings in The Hague, Netherlands, and the United States of America and provided a written response, which included the Forum's "Statement of victims' rights in the process of criminal justice". The Forum has also contributed to the United Nations steering group responsible for setting up the international victimology Web site (*www.victimology.nl*) as recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/21, United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Forum has regular contact with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention at Vienna.

Council of Europe and the European Union

In 1996, the Forum was granted full consultative status with the Council of Europe and, in that year, Forum members met with Members of the European Parliament in Brussels. The Forum has maintained contacts with those Members who expressed interest in its work. In 1998, the European Union accepted some competency in the area of crime victims and the Commission established an Expert Committee to consider the rights of victims within the Union. The Forum's secretary sat on the Committee, and the Forum's publications on victims' rights to standards of service, rights in the criminal justice process and social rights have been utilized in the Committee's deliberations. A protocol, "Crime victims in the European Union: reflexions on standards and action" (COM 349) has since been adopted by the European Parliament.

Other work

In the four-year period, the Forum has held annual conferences in four member countries, contributing to the sharing of knowledge and good practice in the provision of victims' services. The conference themes have included developments in Eastern Europe, witnesses in the international court, cross-boundary victimization, and areas where victims' rights may conflict with those of defendants and offenders. The conferences' other purpose and probably the most significant development of the quadrennium has been the production of a new series of publications by the Forum on: victims' rights in the process of criminal

justice; the social rights of victims of crime; and victims' rights to standards of service. These publications may now be accessed on the United Nations Web site.

Forum members have also assisted colleagues in many other countries who have sought personal support in their development of services to victims of crime. The countries have included Australia, Brazil, Israel, Latvia, Japan, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Slovakia and South Africa.

4. European Insurance Committee

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Set up in 1953, the European Insurance Committee (Comité européen des assurances (CEA)) is the federation of national associations of insurance companies in 29 European countries.

Aims

Its aims are to represent European insurers, by promoting, defending and illustrating their views within international bodies; and by providing qualified opinions to public or private European and international organizations with an insurance or reinsurance involvement, and to exchange information and experience between markets, in the interests of European insurance companies and in response to their needs, and, generally, to put forward the views of European insurers in economic and social debates.

At the European level, the establishment of the single European insurance market has undoubtedly been the major event of the period in question and has mobilized most of CEA's efforts.

At the end of a long process of harmonizing member States' national legislation, with which CEA was closely associated, the European Union (EU) now has a single insurance market.

In the preparation of statutory texts specific to the insurance sector and for the practical implementation of changes, CEA works in close liaison with the different EU bodies (essentially the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Council and the various Council bodies).

With the closer links established between 18 national markets (the 15 EU member States, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein forming part of the European Economic Area), CEA now represents an integrated area where 5,000 insurance companies offer their products to 380 million European consumers.

At the international level, CEA's active participation in the latest GATS negotiations on financial services, led by the World Trade Organization (WTO), should be noted. Following several years of discussions and negotiations, an initial agreement on the liberalization of financial services was concluded at the World Trade Organization on 13 December 1997. The close involvement of the private sector — including CEA for European insurance — and the convergent views of European and American private operators in favour of a permanent agreement finally brought about the decisive impetus of 1997. CEA and European insurers are now getting ready for the next round of negotiations, initiated by WTO, which will start in 2000 and could last three or four years.

United Nations activities

CEA actively participates in IAEA in the field of nuclear liability and financial guarantees. Hence, when the Vienna Convention on liability in the field of nuclear damage was being revised, the European insurers' comments were submitted on various points of direct interest to insurance. The protocol amending the Convention no longer includes provisions likely to raise problems of insurability as such, with, however, the exception of those which extend from 10 to 30 years the prescription period for claims with effect from the occurrence of a nuclear incident. In this respect, CEA recalled once again that there was no automatic adequacy between a liability regime and its insurance cover.

It is probable that, following the modifications to the Vienna Convention, the text of the Paris Convention will be renegotiated. The revision would cover, in particular, the extension of the geographical scope of cover.

Finally, CEA actively participated as an expert in the work of UNCTAD and UNEP on the completion of a draft additional protocol to the Basel Convention on the difficult problem of the cross-border transport of dangerous wastes.

5. Federation of National Representations of the Experiment in International Living

(Special consultative status granted 1978)

Introduction

Founded in 1932, the Experiment in International Living (EIL) was the first international education and cultural exchange organization in the world. Its mission is to involve individuals in programmes of intercultural learning, as one way to develop their understanding of and respect for people throughout the world. Originally based in the United States, the Experiment evolved into a worldwide federation, currently representing organizations in over 20 nations.

The Experiment expanded its geographical membership in 1997 by adding member organizations in Ghana and Poland. In addition to its relationship with the Council since 1978, the Experiment has held consultative status with the Council of Europe since 1981.

Activities relevant to the United Nations

The Irish Experiment organizes programmes on the theme "Cultures in conflict", which bring together Palestinians and Israelis, Cypriots from the Greek and Turkish sides of that island nation, South Africans of different races, plus Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants in order to explore conflict resolution and reconciliation. The first programme took place in October of 1995 in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The second programme was a study visit in Israel and Palestine in June of 1996 which led to the creation of a training course for facilitators of exchanges involving young people in cultures of conflict. EIL/Ireland also hosts programmes on this theme, in cooperation with Elderhostel for United States senior citizens and with the United States Experiment in International Living for teenagers.

EIL/India has arranged programmes around the following themes/days: International Literacy Day, International Day of Peace, Human Rights Day and United Nations Day. The activities on Literacy Day at the EIL Centre in Bhilwara, India, in 1995, involved over 200 students at a secondary school signing up for the "Each one teach one" programme whereby

they promise to teach at least one person "the three Rs". The Experiment in India held its fourth annual "All India Meet" in December of 1995. The theme of the three-day event was "The United Nations in the Year 2000 and beyond" and drew attendees from Bhilwara, Calcutta, Delhi, Dehradun, Lucknow, Mumbai, Rajkot, Surat, Seconderabad and Patna.

The Mexican Experiment sent a group to the United States National Model United Nations Conference in April of 1995. The programme in New York marked the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

The United States member (World Learning) continued to operate in the Consortium with World Education and Save the Children USA, at the invitation of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and UNHCR in order to assist Laotians repatriating from refugee camps in Thailand. The Consortium also worked in partnership with UNICEF and the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to assist in establishing cluster school systems in the provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Takeo and Stung Treng, and teacher-training in Phanat Nikhom, Thailand and Galang Indonesia for over 3,500 teachers, most of whom had had no previous training. The teachers went on to teach more than 60,000 refugees through 1997.

In 1996, the United States member, World Learning, and UNICEF co-sponsored a forum "Children in war — innocent victims of landmines" on 14 July on the campus of its School for International Training. Featured speakers were Alex Palacios, UNICEF senior programme administrator, United States Senator from Vermont Patrick Leahy, and Lloyd Feinberg, manager of the Leahy War Victims Fund and the Fund for Displaced Children. The special guest for the afternoon was Judy Collins, popular folk singer.

The Turkish Experiment hosted "Race relations and xenophobia", a two-week seminar in February 1997 for 24 participants from five countries.

The Experiment has linked its Web site (http://www.experiment.org) to the United Nations NGO home page (http://www.ngo.org).

Conferences

Experiment representatives participated in the annual conferences of the United Nations Department of Public Information on non-governmental organizations (September 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997).

An EIL delegate attended as an observer the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, September 1994) and the related NGO Forum. The delegate had also attended a preparatory committee session in New York.

Three delegates from the Danish Experiment attended the World Summit for Social Development and the related NGO Forum (Copenhagen, March 1995).

EIL sent two delegates as observers to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995) and to the NGO Forum. A panel discussion on the Conference was held at the School for International Training.

The Experiment sent a delegate to the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Vienna, November 1995). The Forum aimed to get youth involved in setting the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

A group of 16 Experiment delegates took part in the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (22-24 April, 1996). Some of the delegates had attended the previous year's session as well and had been invited to participate in a special youth panel.

The Indian Experiment sent two delegates to the World Food Summit (New Delhi, 1997) and to a forum of Indian non-governmental organizations for cooperation with the United Nations (10 March 1997).

A group of 24 Experiment delegates attended the special sessions of the General Assembly on the five-year follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (23-27 June 1997).

NGO Committees

During 1994 through 1997 EIL representatives were active on the Executive Board of the NGO Committee on Youth at United Nations Headquarters; NGO Committee on Sustainable Development and the Environment; NGO Committee on Human Rights (New York); NGO Committee on Disarmament; and the NGO Committee on the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

6. Human Rights Internet

(Special consultative status granted 1983)

Introduction

Human Rights Internet (HRI), an international non-governmental organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, was founded in 1976 on the premise that accurate, comprehensive and timely information is a precondition to the protection and promotion of human rights. HRI is dedicated to the empowerment of human rights activists and organizations and to the education of governmental and intergovernmental agencies and officials and other actors in the public and private sphere on human rights issues and the role of civil society. HRI gives special attention to supporting the work of the United Nations in the area of human rights. The HRI network comprises several thousand organizations and individuals in almost every country in the world (approximately 800 in Africa; 1,100 in Asia; 1,000 in Latin America; and 2,000 in Europe and North America).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and United Nations meetings

Human Rights Internet participated in the following world conferences and their preparatory committees: World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993); Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, 1996); Rome Conference on the International Criminal Court (Rome, 1998).

HRI has participated in every session of the Commission on Human Rights since 1993, in the Economic and Social Council meetings on integrating human rights throughout the United Nations system (July 1998); in the Council session to review the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (November 1998); and three meetings of the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights to review the mechanisms.

Cooperation with and support for United Nations programmes and bodies

1. *Vienna Plus Five*. Because of its extensive involvement with the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), HRI took a special interest in the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. In June 1998, with support from the Canadian Government, augmented by support from the Norwegian and Austrian Governments and

from non-governmental organizations in Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands and the United States, HRI hosted an international NGO forum, Vienna Plus Five, in Ottawa. It reviewed progress made and obstacles encountered since the World Conference. More than 250 non-governmental organizations representatives took part, from all regions of the world. Working papers put forward recommendations which were compiled into a major report, printed in a special issue of *Human Rights Tribune* and widely disseminated, to, *inter alia*, the Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

2. *Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights*. During the Vienna Plus Five forum in Ottawa, HRI hosted a non-governmental organization consultation by the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights, concerning the review of the mechanisms of the Commission.

3. *Beijing Plus Five*. HRI was very involved with the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). A five-member team of HRI joined the UNDP train from Warsaw to Beijing, training 150 women from Eastern and Central Europe en route to the Conference about women's rights and human rights. HRI then participated in the Hairou Forum and closely monitored the governmental meeting. Since that time, it has been following the planning for the review of the Conference and participated in the first Preparatory Committee.

4. *United Nations Human Rights System*. For the past three years, HRI (in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Government of Canada) has worked on an annual report of the United Nations human rights system, published in both French and English in three formats: as a Web site; in hard copy (six volumes in French and six volumes in English); and on CD-ROM. One of the six volumes is thematic; the other five are geographic (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, East and Central Europe, Western and other). All relevant United Nations reports, resolutions, recommendations and decisions are summarized as objectively as possible, with hyperlinks to all original documentation. Copies of the report have been widely distributed to both non-governmental organizations and Governments, to the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights, and to others. A major purpose of the project is to assist in widening the dissemination of United Nations human rights materials, and especially to make this material as easy as possible to access. This project also has the cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Commissioner wrote a foreword to the 1997 and 1998 editions.

5. *HRI's Web site and its publications*. Each issue of *Human Rights Tribune* carries feature articles about the United Nations human rights programme. HRI's Web site currently receives in the magnitude of 600,000 hits per month from individuals, Governments and organizations in all regions of the world. Together, these two communication initiatives have been extensively used to inform the human rights community worldwide about the work of the United Nations in the area of human rights.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

HRI's Executive Director and other staff members have undertaken missions on behalf of UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNAIDS and UNITAR. They have included missions to Mongolia (1996), to discuss freedom of association and assist the Government in writing a law on non-governmental organizations; to Namibia (Oct/Nov 1997), to help establish a human rights documentation centre for the University of Namibia; to Armenia (April 1998), to help create a database of human rights non-governmental organizations; and to Morocco (July 1998), to assist the Minister of Human Rights draft statutes for a

Centre for Human Rights Documentation and Training. HRI also conducted a study to examine the feasibility of establishing a documentation centre for UNHCR in Geneva (March 1996); designed and maintains a Web site for UNICEF/ICDC in Florence, Italy; designed a Web site for UNESCO's Chairs of Human Rights and Peace; prepared a volume for UNAIDS entitled *Human Rights and HIV/AIDS: Effective Community Responses*; assisted UNHCR in designing a questionnaire on human rights education; participated in a session to train governmental officials in reporting to the treaty bodies, and contributed a chapter to the UNITAR manual; and trained a Togolese documentalist at HRI's offices in Ottawa.

7. International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

The International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD) is an independent Canadian institution which promotes, advocates and defends the democratic and human rights set out in the International Bill of Human Rights. During the period from 1995 to 1998, representatives of ICHRDD attended and participated in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations and in the Fourth World Conference on Women. ICHRDD also attended the Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (ICC). Since 1995, through policy dialogue and exchange of information, ICHRDD has supported and continues to collaborate in the work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and also in the work of country special rapporteurs.

Aims and purposes

ICHRDD has an international mandate to promote, advocate and defend the democratic and human rights set out in the International Bill of Human Rights. In cooperation with civil society and Governments in Canada and abroad, the Centre initiates and supports programmes to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries. Although its mandate is global, ICHRDD's programming focuses on four thematic priorities: democratic development/justice; women's human rights; globalization and human rights; and the rights of indigenous peoples. The programming takes place in 13 core countries in Africa (Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo), the Americas (Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru), and Asia (Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand). ICHRDD programmes also include partnerships with Canadian non-governmental organizations, institutions and international non-governmental organizations.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

During the period 1995-1998, ICHRDD actively participated in United Nations human rights meetings. Representatives of ICHRDD attended the fifty-first, fifty-second, fifty-third, and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

During the period 1995-1998, representatives of ICHRDD attended and participated in the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva. ICHRDD supports the United Nations draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and was active in the 1995 and 1998 meetings of the Intersessional

Working Group preparing the draft declaration. In 1996, ICHRDD published an essay entitled "People or peoples: equality, autonomy and self-determination".

In 1995, ICHRDD sent a four-member delegation to the NGO Human Rights Caucus and preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The delegates also attended the Conference, held in Beijing from 30 August to 15 September 1995. ICHRDD was also active on the issue of accreditation and access of women's NGOs to the Beijing Forum. On 8 September 1995, ICHRDD co-sponsored, with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, a meeting on the integration of the human rights of women into the United Nations system. ICHRDD also published an occasional paper entitled "Ways and means of integrating women's rights as human rights into the United Nations machinery: follow-up strategies from Vienna to Beijing". In 1996, ICHRDD published an essay entitled "Only silence will protect you: women, freedom of expression and the language of human rights".

International Criminal Court

From 1996 to 1998, ICHRDD was active in advocating the creation of a strong and effective international criminal court (ICC) by contributing to the debate on the structure and mandate of such a court. Representatives of the Centre participated in the first six preparatory committee meetings on the creation of the court in New York. The ICHRDD President, the Director of Programmes and the Assistant Coordinator of the Democratic Development and Justice Programme participated in the Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an international criminal court from 15 June to 17 July 1998, in Rome. The Director of Programmes presented a statement to the plenary Assembly.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Since 1994, ICHRDD continues to provide support to the work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy. In September 1997, ICHRDD convened a non-governmental organization expert meeting to discuss the legal framework of her mandate and to review the status of data on violence against women. "Report of the NGO Expert Meeting on the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences" was published by ICHRDD in October 1997.

During the period from 1995 to 1998, ICHRDD, through policy dialogue and exchange of information, collaborated and supported the work of the country special rapporteurs: Special Rapporteur on Congo-Kinshasa (Mr. Roberto Garreton), the Independent Expert on Haiti (Mr. Adama Dieng), and former Special Rapporteurs on Burundi (Mr. Paulo Pinheiro) and Rwanda (Mr. René Degni-Ségui).

Other relevant activities

In November 1998 ICHRDD provided comments to Mr. Mustapha Mehedi's working paper on the right to education, including education in human rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/10). At the same time, ICHRDD also provided information regarding steps taken to combat impunity for human rights violations, in response to the report by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Louis Joinet, "Question of the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/20/Rev.1).

During the period from 1995 to 1998, ICHRDD helped, through its International Access Fund, developing country non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council to gain access to and monitor international human rights protection and

promotion mechanisms. The Access Fund also facilitated the production, publication and dissemination of parallel reports from non-governmental organizations to treaty bodies.

8. International Hotel and Restaurant Association

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Introduction

This report covers the work of the International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH&RA) in support of United Nations activities, specifically in relation to the impact of tourism on the physical, economic and social environment. In partnership with other United Nations agencies and representative associations, IH&RA seeks to raise awareness of these issues through the development, publication and dissemination of industry-specific information and guidelines, awards, training materials and programmes.

The International Hotel and Restaurant Association is a not-for-profit organization and the only organization exclusively devoted to defending, promoting and informing the hotel and restaurant industry throughout the world. Representing over 750,000 hospitality operators, it is a global network of national hotel and restaurant associations, national and international hotel chains, individual operators, suppliers and hotel schools. The hospitality industry is estimated to comprise over 300,000 hotels and 8 million restaurants worldwide, to employ 60 million people and contribute US$ 950 billion to the global economy.

The establishment in 1996 of regional offices in Hong Kong, to cover the Asia/Pacific area, and in Mexico, to cover Latin America, has boosted membership generally in those regions. In addition, a number of national associations in the Middle East have joined since 1995. Membership currently stands at 2,400 in over 150 countries, including 119 national hotel and restaurant associations, 37 national and international hotel chains and 130 hotel schools.

In 1996, the International Hotel Association (IHA) voted formally to include "Restaurant" in its title and became the International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH&RA).

The Association continues to be funded by membership dues, the organization of events and sponsorship. The creation in 1996 of EURHOTEC, IH&RA's annual European Hospitality Technology Show, has provided a new source of revenue and improved activity levels.

IH&RA is not affiliated to any international non-governmental organization in consultative status. However, it is an affiliate member of the World Tourism Organization through its World Business Council.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

The appointment in 1995 of a permanent IH&RA representative to the United Nations has enabled the Association to monitor United Nations activities more closely and to develop contacts with the Secretariat. An IH&RA representative attended the following: World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995); 1995 World Congress (New York, 11-12 May); ECOSOC Meeting of Governmental Representatives (New York, August 1995); NGO/UN Partnership meeting (New York, 20 November 1995); World Summit to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, August 1996); International Labour Organization, Tripartite Meeting on the Effects of New Technologies

on Employment and Working Conditions in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector (Geneva, 12-16 May 1997); World Health Organization Conference on Health Promotion (Jakarta, July 1997); 50th annual NGO Conference (New York, 10-12 September 1997); Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, April 1998).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

United Nations Environment Programme

IH&RA joint activities with UNEP include convening of an Asia/Pacific Environment Forum (in Phuket, Thailand) in October 1995, with the International Hotels Environment Initiative (IHEI); publication, with IHEI, of the *Environmental Action Pack for Hotels* translated into French and Spanish; judging of the IH&RA Environmental Award, nominating an independent and corporate "Green Hotelier of the Year", in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998; publication in 1995 and 1996 of *Environmental Good Practice in Hotels*, case studies from award entries. A second edition, with case studies from the 1998 and 1999 Awards, is planned for the early 2000; survey of hospitality educational institutes, undertaken in 1996, determining the need for an environmental teaching resource pack, subsequently designed with UNEP and the International Association of Hotel School Directors.

World Health Organization

IH&RA participated in the WHO Global Health Promotion Alliance and has participated in meetings in Geneva since 1997. In 1998, UNAIDS work with IH&RA to develop industry guidelines for responding to AIDS in the workplace was its first partnership with a global trade association to address this pandemic. *The Challenges of HIV/AIDS: A Guide for the Hospitality Industry*, published in 1999, will be reprinted in 2000 with support from ESCAP.

UNICEF Youth Career Development Programme

IH&RA participated in the *Youth Career Development Programme* launched jointly in 1995 by Singapore-based Pan-Pacific Hotels and Resorts and UNICEF, to provide deprived young people with basic hotel skills. Between 1995 and 1997, 120 young women benefited from the programme. In 1998, the IH&RA charity *Foundation for the Future* contributed 4,830 Swiss francs ($3,500) to the Programme which has since expanded to the Philippines, Indonesia and Bangladesh. IH&RA plans to work in close partnership with UNAIDS and UNICEF in 2000 to launch further joint initiatives in this area.

World Tourism Organization

IH&RA is a founding member and regular contributor to the WTO Task Force to Combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, comprising travel industry partners End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking, established in 1996. Throughout the four-year period, IH&RA contributed to the WTO's work on statistics and more recently to work on the establishment of the WTO Tourism Satellite Account.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

In November 1997, IH&RA entered into a cooperation agreement to encourage hotel chains worldwide to participate in the UNESCO "Memories of the Future" programme by attracting tourism to UNESCO cultural heritage sites via their marketing campaigns.

International Labour Organization

IH&RA organized extensive hotel industry consultation in preparation for the Tripartite Meeting on the Effects of New Technologies on Employment and Working Conditions in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector and widely circulated its outcome.

World Intellectual Property Organization

IH&RA has observer status at WIPO and regularly monitors its activities.

Other relevant activities

At its annual congress in Mexico City in 1996, IH&RA passed a resolution condemning the sexual exploitation of children in any form or manner. IH&RA then set up its own internal task force in 1996 and developed a brochure to raise awareness and offer guidelines to associations and hoteliers on combating child sex tourism. This has been widely distributed to associations and operators.

9. World Assembly of Youth

(General consultative status granted 1950)

Aims and purpose

The aim of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) is to work through national voluntary youth organizations for the true satisfaction of youth's needs and for the fulfilment of youth's responsibilities. WAY recognizes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the basis of its action and of its services. In achievement of its aim, WAY seeks to increase inter-ethnic respect and foster intercultural and international understanding and cooperation; facilitate the collection of information about the needs and problems of youth; disseminate information about the methods, techniques and activities of youth organizations; promote the interchange of ideas between youth of all countries; assist in the development of youth work activities and promote, by mutual aid, the extension of the work of voluntary youth organizations; cooperate in the development of national youth councils of voluntary youth organizations; promote the democratic participation of young people both in their own organizations and in the life of society as a whole; establish and maintain relations with international organizations, both voluntary and governmental; support and encourage the national movements of non-self-governing countries in their struggle for national liberation; promote tolerance, understanding, solidarity and cooperation among young men and women, irrespective of race, sex, language, religion or political orientation; encourage the full participation of young men and women in the development process of their countries; improve the equality between young men and women; act as a representative body on behalf of national youth councils to the United Nations and to other appropriate governmental and non-governmental international bodies.

The following organizations joined WAY during the period 1994-1997: Conseil supérieur de la jeunesse algérienne, Mesa de Concertacion Juvenil (Argentina), Solidarité jeunesse (Burkina Faso), Centre des initiatives populaires pour la développement (Cameroon), Forum des jeunes producteurs pour la développement (Congo), Féderation des mouvements et associations de jeunnesse et d'enfance de la Côte d'Ivoire, Casa Internacional de la Juventud (Ecuador), Consejo Nacional de la Juventud de El Salvador, Estonian Youth Council, Ethiopian Youth League, German National Youth Committee,

Lesotho Youth Federation, Conférence générale de la jeunesse luxembourgeoise, Reseau oecumenique madagascar de la jeunesse et des étudiants, Association de développement par la recherche-action (Mali), National Youth Council (Namibia), Youth Council of Niue, Norwegian Youth Council, Asociacion Paraguaya de Albergues Juveniles, Democratic Students Union (Philippines), National Council of Youth Organizations (Russian Federation), National Alliance of YMCAs (Sao Tome and Principe), Windward Youth Council (Trinidad and Tobago), Uganda Youth Council, Unión de la Juventud de Saguia El-Hamra y Rio de Oro (Western Sahara).

During the years 1994-1997 the most important change in WAY's funding was the support received from the Danish International Development Agency, the World Youth Foundation and increased membership contributions.

WAY is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies and conferences and other United Nations meetings

WAY participated in the following United Nations meetings during the years 1994-1997 (a selection): first Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development (February 1994, New York); Youth Consultation Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (1-5 February, Princeton); third Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development (4-22 April 1994, New York); forty-seventh World Health Assembly (2-12 May 1994, Geneva); second Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development (22 August-9 September 1994, New York); International Conference on Population and Development (5-13 September 1994, Cairo); third Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development (January 1995, New York); World Summit for Social Development (6-12 March 1995, Copenhagen); Commission on Social Development (11-21 April 1995, New York); second Preparatory Committee of Habitat II (24 April-5 May 1995, Nairobi); Fourth World Conference on Women (4-15 September 1995, Beijing); UNESCO Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs (5-9 September 1995, Tokyo); third Preparatory Committee of Habitat II (5-16 February 1996, New York); Commission on Sustainable Development (18 April-3 May 1996, New York); Habitat II (3-15 June 1996, Istanbul); second World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (25-29 November 1996, Vienna); Meeting on Youth and Reproductive Health (23-25 June 1997, Copenhagen) with UNFPA and WHO; workshop on Educating for a Sustainable Future: A Transdisciplinary Vision for Concerted Action (8-12 December 1997, Thessaloniki), with UNESCO.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

On 26 October 1995 WAY addressed the special session of the General Assembly commemorating the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year. WAY contributed to the drafting of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and participated in the preparations and carrying out of the second World Youth Forum of the United Nations System. WAY has representatives at the United Nations offices in Bangkok, Geneva, New York, Santiago and Vienna. The United Nations Youth Fund gave financial support to the International Youth Consultation on Social Development in March 1995 in Copenhagen.

Representatives of WAY visited the UNCHS secretariat and the UNEP secretariat in Nairobi.

WAY was a member of the Working Group for the UNESCO Youth Consultation in 1994-1995. UNESCO was represented in the panel of judges for WAY's Fourth World Youth Award in 1997. WAY representatives met several times with UNESCO officials. WAY has formal consultative relations with UNESCO.

WAY made a youth population chart and a film on youth and population and continued to run the Youth Press Service. It held the following events with the support of the UNFPA: Meeting for Women Parliamentarians on Population, March 1994; International Youth Consultation on Population and Development, August-September 1994; International Youth Consultation on Social Development, March 1995; International Youth Consultation on Habitat II, June 1996; and 7th International Youth Forum: Youth and Population, July 1996. UNFPA and WAY prepared and co-chaired the working group on youth, health and population at the United Nations World Youth Forum.

Representatives of WAY had meetings with UNICEF officials in New York and Geneva.

WAY has official relations with WHO which financed a "Safe Motherhood" project in Bangladesh, finalized in 1994.

Other relevant activities

During the period 1994-1997 the most important United Nations initiative for WAY was the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond which WAY uses to promote the establishment and improvement of national youth policies. It also serves as a tool for WAY's members to improve the situation of youth in their respective countries.

WAY made an effort to promote the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at its national population workshops and at the International Youth Forum in Korea in 1996.

WAY has been ciosely cooperating with the United Nations youth unit, especially regarding the United Nations Youth Forum and World Youth Programme.

10. World Federation of United Nations Associations

(General consultative status granted 1947)

General

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is an international non-governmental organization (consultative status, category I) which devotes itself entirely to the support of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the activities of the United Nations and its agencies. WFUNA member associations are established in all parts of the world, in countries of various political, economic and social systems, and at different stages of development.

During the period under review WFUNA membership increased to 84 national associations, which in turn are often represented also by multiple provincial or state branches. There has been no substantial changes in sources of funding (i.e., dues from member associations).

Participation in United Nations meetings

WFUNA representatives practically attended all of the sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Commission on the Status of Women, and several meetings of other functional commissions and of regional commissions.

It made statements at the following:

(a) Economic and Social Council;

(b) Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (plenary session, 25 July 1996, agenda item 10);

(c) CONGO, 28 January 1998, New York;

(d) CONGO, 26 June 1998, Geneva.

WFUNA has consultative and working relations with UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNICEF, WMO, FAO and other entities of the United Nations system. It also closely follows the activities of UNCTAD and UNHCR. During the past four years WFUNA representatives attended a large number of meetings organized by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

Other relevant activities

The range of interests of WFUNA and its member associations continues to be improvement of the functioning of the United Nations in such crucial problem areas challenging the international community as maintenance of international peace and security, disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, environment, status of women, child soldiers and child labour. This was reflected in WFUNA programmes conducted during the period under review — e.g., Arts and Philatelic Programme, Working Partners, WFUNA Contribution to Conflict Warning and Prevention, Great Lakes Programme, Youth Programme.

Through communication/information services WFUNA provides its members with United Nations documents, if difficult to obtain at the national level. WFUNA issue discussion papers, intended for the use of United Nations associations and other non-governmental organizations, provide informed comments on key issues on the United Nations agenda. WFUNA is now setting up a Web site and e-mail.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, many United Nations associations prepared special reports — for example, Italy, "United Nations: 50 years of activities and perspectives for the future". In May 1995, WFUNA Headquarters issued the third interim report on the activities of WFUNA and the United Nations associations for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. A meeting was held in Luxembourg, in August 1996, on the theme "The United Nations under grave threat: Europe's responsibilities".

Excellent relations were maintained with the NGO Liaison Officers in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

WFUNA continued to be active in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO).

11. World Information Transfer

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Aims and purposes

World Information Transfer (WIT) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization promoting environmental health and literacy. In 1987, inspired by the Chernobyl nuclear tragedy, WIT was formed in recognition of the pressing need to provide accurate, actionable information about our deteriorating global environment and its effect on human health to opinion leaders and concerned citizens around the world. WIT exercises its mandate through:

(a) The publication of *World Ecology Report*, a quarterly digest of critical issues in health and environment, published in five languages and distributed to opinion leaders around the world, and for free in developing countries;

(b) An annual conference, Health and the Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York since 1992. The world's leading authorities in the field of environmental medicine share their latest findings and discuss possible solutions with leaders in government, business, education, non-profit organizations, and the media. WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP and UNFPA regularly provide speakers to the conferences.

Since 1995, WIT has been providing and promoting humanitarian relief to areas devastated by environmental degradation. Supplies and equipment have been sent to hospitals and orphanages in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl fallout. This programme has been rapidly expanding since its inception.

The WIT Centres for Health and Environment provide centralized specific scientific data pertaining to health and sustainability issues. The objective of the Centers is to provide ongoing research, education and implementation of corrective programmes. The first centre was opened in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1992 and moved to Lviv, Ukraine, in 1996. The second opened in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1997.

WIT has participated in the creation of the new Development Library CD-ROM, a health and development information project utilizing information produced by United Nations agencies. It demonstrated the CD-ROM at the 1998 annual meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and United Nations conferences and meetings

1995 World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995), and its preparatory meetings. WIT attended the Summit and distributed the printed statement made at the third Preparatory Committee on the importance of guaranteeing funds for countries in transition. WIT stressed the energy needs of that area which still uses Chernobyl-style nuclear reactors to produce electricity and recommended that those nations not be neglected in the allocation of development funds.

Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995). WIT sent its representative to Beijing to participate in a panel on women's health and environment in the aftermath of Chernobyl. It distributed its quarterly publication, *World Ecology Report*.

1996 Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, June 1996). WIT participated in the Conference as well as the preparatory meetings. At the latter and in Istanbul, WIT organized the Health and Environment Caucus. In Istanbul, WIT

arranged a seminar on health in urban environments at which digital slides of the radioactive cloud produced by the Chernobyl nuclear explosion were shown. The cloud circled the Earth over several weeks, intensifying human exposure to radiation. The Chair of WIT, Dr. Christine Durbak, made a statement to the Conference plenary on the topic Environment and children's health.

World Food Summit (Rome, November 1996). WIT sent two representatives who focused on issues of sustainable agriculture.

1998 United Nations Summit on Youth (Lisbon, August 1998). WIT sent two youth representatives to the Summit and to the Forum in Braga. WIT distributed *World Ecology Report* and its representative summarized the proceedings for publication in a later issue.

1995-1999 Commission on Sustainable Development. Every year, WIT has participated in the sessions of the Commission, by organizing the Health and Environment Caucus; producing an issue of *World Ecology Report* on one of the Commission themes; organizing its annual conference, Health and the Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions, as a parallel event. For the sixth session, WIT participated in the Learning Centre, demonstrating the new Development Library CD-ROM.

Commission on Social Development. WIT attends the annual Commission sessions, and for the past two years, 1998 and 1999, WIT has presented a written statement to the Commission that has become part of the official record. Each year the statement has followed the theme set at the Social Summit, reminding Governments of the existence of dangerous, outmoded nuclear power reactors and the need for funds to replace those sources of energy.

WIT's United Nations representative (Director) chaired the 1997 DPI/NGO Conference on the theme Building Partnerships. WIT is on the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO), and its representative is vice-chair of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee.

WIT's Health and Environment Conference: Global Partners for Global Solutions

In May 1995, the Government of Brazil co-sponsored the Conference, which had as its theme, "Health in the Metropolis". The Conference reinforced the importance of integrating health issues into the Habitat II Conference which would be held the following month. In 1996, the Government of Lebanon co-sponsored the Conference, which had as its theme, "Toxic Waste: Its Effect on Health: Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of Chernobyl". In 1997, the Government of Chile co-sponsored the Conference, which had as its theme, "Environmental Degradation: Its Effects on Children's Health". In 1998, the Government of Bangladesh co-sponsored the Conference, which had as its theme, "The Trauma of Environmental Disasters: Consequences to Human Health". In 1999, the Department of Public Information, United Nations Secretariat, co-sponsored the Conference, which had as its theme, "Environmental Challenges to Human Health Through Key Stages of Life".

Other activities

World Information Transfer's quarterly publication, *World Ecology Report*, has grown in substance and distribution in the past four years. WIT now publishes summaries of the papers presented at its annual conference in the *Report* and prepares special editions for the sessions of various commissions and for special United Nations years or events.

World Information Transfer cooperates with non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian aid (medical equipment, toys and clothing) to pediatric units and orphanages in countries affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The goods included in the shipments are donated, as is the labour required to prepare them for transport and delivery.

WIT runs an internship programme for students with an interest in international relations in the fields of health and environment. The interns follow United Nations meetings on topics relevant to WIT. The current interns are an American undergraduate student at Columbia University and a graduate student from the Syrian Arab Republic.

WIT was elected to the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO) in November 1997, and its Chair is a Vice President of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee.

Concluding statement

World Information Transfer began as a fully voluntary organization and continues to function in this way, receiving in-kind support to operate at its headquarters as well as in its regional centres. Its members are dedicated to the idea that "a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world", as anthropologist Margaret Mead said. The "thoughtful committed" members of WIT believe that effectively communicating information on the impact to human health of environmental degradation creates knowledgeable citizens who will protect the natural environment for their future.

12. Worldview International Foundation

(Special consultative status granted 1983)

Introduction

Worldview International Foundation is an international non-profit service organization committed to facilitating human development. Worldview collaborates with governmental and non-governmental institutions in developing regions to strengthen global development communication, to achieve sustainability and develop skills and capacities to facilitate information-sharing. Headquartered in Sri Lanka, Worldview has a network of media centres in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and works with partner organizations in Kenya, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Cambodia and India. The major funding source is the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD). The Swedish International Development Association, International Family Health and IFAD fund other activities, along with the Letten F. Saugstad Fund and several other donors. Worldview activities have focused on basic need issues, such as health and nutrition, environment, population concerns, HIV/AIDS and STD prevention, distance education, empowerment of women, child rights and child survival, crop replacement, substance abuse and community development.

Participation in the work of the Council

Worldview has an accredited representative residing in the country where a meeting is convened. Worldview representatives have regularly attended sessions of the Council in New York and of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Bangladesh: Worldview Media Production Unit produced development videos for UNICEF, including facilitating technical and editing support to programme activities. *Gambia*: UNFPA supported the Worldview community-based communication programme on population and development. The Media Centre produced videos for UNFPA. *Nepal*: Worldview produced radio programmes for the UNDP-supported Partnership for Quality Tourism project. Videos were produced on women in agriculture for FAO. A project on child survival through oral rehydration therapy was implemented in collaboration with UNICEF. *Sri Lanka*: A child rights project was operated, funded by UNICEF and Worldview. *Syrian Arab Republic*: All ongoing IFAD-supported projects benefit from a long-term cooperation agreement with Worldview. The IFAD agreement also covered Sudan, in the UNDP-Southern Regional Agricultural Development Project. Television, videos and films were produced for FAO, IFAD, UNDP and UNFPA. *Thailand*: Communication for a drug prevention project was supported by UNDCP, Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand, and the International Organization of Good Templars/Sweden.

Global projects

Worldview's NORAD-funded advocacy programme, Rights of the Child, is a series of TV programmes produced in cooperation with UNICEF. The programmes are broadcast through Young Asia Television, which reaches 150 million viewers in Asia. Another United Nations-related project in cooperation with ESCAP to produce 52 mini-documentaries and TV spots on the right to development. Worldview works with WHO on a production in cooperation with World Federation for Mental Health.

Other relevant activities

Worldview has several consultative arrangements with United Nations agencies.

There are Worldview advocacy programmes broadcast on Young Asia Television. Worldview implements grass-roots projects and has established an NGO network in 10 Asian and African countries, through its project Participatory Communication for Democracy and Sustainable Development.

Worldview has several briefs with the Department of Public Information and other United Nations agencies.